

Mr. Speaker, Bo Hicks' body was returned to his beloved South Carolina Monday, to his family and to his friends. He is in the presence of the Lord. He died fighting for this country, doing what his country asked him to do. And he fought, lived, and died with honor. He died, Mr. Speaker, before his 25th birthday.

The decisions we make in this assembly have real life eternal consequences. May we strive to make the service and sacrifice of Bo Hicks meaningful. May he look down and say, "It was worth it."

Thank you, Bo Hicks. God bless you and your family.

CEOS INSTRUCT WASHINGTON HOW TO AVOID THE FISCAL CLIFF

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Highly paid CEOs are in town to tell America how to avoid the fiscal cliff. The top priority of the "fix the debt" CEOs is to cut the essential commitments of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. No skin off their noses.

Sorry, you 50 million Americans who are in poverty. Too bad, you millions of children, elderly, and poor who rely on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Unemployed? You're out of luck if you lose unemployment benefits.

These 71 CEOs who come to Washington to preach fiscal austerity have average retirement assets of \$9.1 million. That's about a \$65,000 check each month for the rest of their lives. Meanwhile, in contrast, the average Social Security check for retired workers is \$1,237 a month.

Of all these debt-cutting CEOs, only two have sufficient assets in their companies' pension funds to meet their obligations to their own workers. The rest who pay any pension at all have underfunded their workers' pension funds by \$103 billion. Those who have already shoved their own retiring workers off the fiscal cliff want to do it to the rest of the middle class and the poor in America. No way.

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PRAIRIE STATE ENERGY CAMPUS

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions of the Prairie State Energy Campus in Washington County, Illinois. This state-of-the-art coal-fired electricity-generating facility is making great advancements in environmental stewardship while at the same time benefiting the community that serves in helping live longer and better lives.

Some in Congress have questioned and even attacked advanced coal plants like Prairie State. I have no doubt Prairie State and projects like it are

smart investments for our energy future. Here are just a few of the many great benefits of Prairie State: Prairie State will serve more than 2.5 million families in nine States with affordable power for over 30 years. It has created 4,000 real jobs and will employ 500 full-time employees upon completion next year. Prairie State has invested more than \$1 billion in ultra-efficient environmental controls that already meet or exceed Federal and State regulations. Even with these investments in efficiency, it is projected to offer consumer electricity at only 5.5 cents per kilowatt hour.

Prairie State is the largest contributor to the tax base in Washington County, generating over \$785 million in regional economic activity.

I urge my colleagues to take the time to learn the facts about Prairie State and what additional great projects like this could mean for our Nation.

GIVING THANKS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Let me say good morning and wish America a wonderful season, but more importantly I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. That is what I'd like to speak about, this whole idea of giving thanks and recognizing where we are today. Before I start that, very briefly let me encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the Congressional Gold Medal for Malala.

We often speak of children, but we often as well fail to recognize children. Malala is a little girl in Pakistan who was willing to stand up to the Taliban to say that we too deserve an education. She is being promoted as the person of the year. I hope Congress will celebrate her, as well.

I mentioned Thanksgiving, and I believe it is important to focus on that because I call upon my colleagues to gather their wits about them as we reflect on what will approach us in January of 2013. It will not be the decline that everyone is being frightened about, because in essence they do not start those cuts right at the beginning. Why don't we be deliberative? Why don't we lay down on the table that we will protect Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid, what people have earned? Why don't we explain to people that everyone at \$250,00 and below will get a tax cut, everyone will, no matter what your wealth level?

Why don't we stop throwing at each other various stones and other things and be deliberative on behalf of the American people. We should be thankful to live in the great country that we live in.

TAXING IS NOT THE SOLUTION

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, William from Humble, Texas, wrote me this about tax increases and how they will affect him and his family. He says:

It seems to me that too many of us are going to be hit with a big tax increase next year. I can't afford to pay any more taxes. My family lives paycheck to paycheck. We stand to lose everything we've worked for. Stop taxes from going up.

With ObamaCare and tax increases, I feel my family stands no chance to get ahead. Tell me, is there any chance for my grandchildren to have a good life? I don't see it. I cannot sleep at nights worrying about the condition of this country and what condition it is in, and there is no end in sight.

Help hardworking people.

Mr. Speaker, Washington has a taxing problem and not a spending problem, because the power to tax is the power to destroy.

And that's just the way it is.

INCREASE FUNDING FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, history has shown that our Nation experiences robust economic growth when we invest in America and in Americans, in education, in scientific research, in roads and bridges.

In order to experience this growth, we cannot allow sequestration to make dramatic cuts to medical research. If the looming budget cuts are allowed to occur, my home State of New York could lose more than \$131 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health to conduct lifesaving research.

Mr. Speaker, western New York is the home to Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the Nation's first cancer center, home to promising advances in cancer research. It lies along the Buffalo-Niagara Medical campus, an economic engine for our community. However, in order to achieve medical or economic success, funding must be sustained over the long term.

We should be increasing, not cutting, funding for medical research. And I urge this House to reject sequestration for this critical investment.

BALANCED SOLUTIONS

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is at a precipice. We find ourselves at this point after years of government neglect in addressing the fiscal challenges facing our Nation. With uncontrolled spending, explosive entitlement obligations, and a cumbersome Tax Code, our Nation is drowning in red ink and red tape.

Our government is ripe for serious and comprehensive reform. As the end of the year draws near, we have an opportunity to come together as a Congress to create long-term solutions to